

Government, Community and Public Affairs

Suite 540
901 S. Bond Street
Baltimore MD 21231
443-287-9930 / Fax 443-287-9898
lrobertson@jhu.edu

Linda Robertson
Vice President

November 30, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management
United States Senate
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3604

Dear Chairman Coburn:

Dr. William Brody, President of The Johns Hopkins University, has asked me to respond to your letter of July 27, 2006 seeking information regarding federally sponsored research at Johns Hopkins University. I am grateful that you and your staff provided additional time for this response and would be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Johns Hopkins University has built a long partnership with the federal government by conducting sponsored research in a number of areas critical to our country, including biomedical, space exploration, defense, and homeland security. To put this in context, in FY 2005 Johns Hopkins received \$1.2 billion in federal funding, and between FY 2000 and FY 2005 we received \$6.3 billion from the federal government, primarily from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Defense (DOD), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). These research dollars were awarded largely in response to over 6,000 investigator initiated grant proposals submitted annually to federal agencies and were merit-based and peer-reviewed awards.

During the timeframe requested, Johns Hopkins has accepted congressionally directed funds for projects where merit-based and peer-reviewed funding was not readily available. Below is a summary of those projects.

In FY 2000 and FY 2002, one faculty member at the Bloomberg School of Public Health received a total of \$2 million for the Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies to improve the nation's medical and public-health preparedness and response to bioterrorism. The timing of the initial award predated "9/11" and both awards predated the existence of the Department of Homeland Security. Research and findings from this Center became the basis of our nation's response to terrorism and further research is now funded through the Department of Homeland Security.

In FY 2002, Congress provided funds within the Department of the Army's research and development account for the creation of the U.S. Army Center of Excellence in Biotechnology. In FY 2003, the U.S. Army held a competition to establish a University Affiliated Research Center known as the Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies (ICB). ICB is charged with focusing on basic research in biotechnology. While the Chronicle of Higher Education listed this project as one to be operated by APL, the center as originally conceived was not established and no funds were received by Johns Hopkins for the ICB.

In FY 2005, Johns Hopkins accepted congressionally directed funds for the creation of the Institute for NanoBioTechnology (INBT). NASA (the federal agency funding the Institute) and Johns Hopkins required an extensive work plan before any funds may be awarded. A detailed work plan has been developed by the faculty of INBT that outlines the core research areas, integration of research, education, technology transfer, and the relevance to NASA goals. The proposal contains timeframes, funding requests, and projected outcomes.

Over a number of fiscal years, Congress has provided approximately \$24 million for the University Partnering for Operational Support, which is a collaborative program at APL and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. This initiative was to link university research directly with operational military problems focused on scientific research and development in the areas of tropospheric meteorology and the near earth space environment. Prototype products have been delivered for testing and use by DOD. An example of these products is the Dust Transport Application, developed at the request of the Air Force, to produce 72 hour dust forecasts for areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan where dust storms can impede military operations.

The National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) consists of multiple institutions and federal laboratories. Funds provided for this effort are distributed among the participating institutions according to the needs of the program. For example, astronauts on long space flights will suffer the effects of osteoporosis. NSBRI research monitoring bone loss solutions will benefit thousands of patients suffering from osteoporosis and other related bone disorders. In FY 2003, ten universities around the country, including APL, shared \$6.7 million to advance this research.

Congress has long supported the Living with a Star (LWS) program that is managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The work for science and associated instruments is awarded through NASA's normal competitive process. Additional funds for LWS are distributed by NASA in accordance with the needs of individual programs to meet scientific objectives. The LWS program is addressing the impact of space weather on astronauts, radio communications, aircraft navigation, power line transmission, and oil pipeline operations on the ground. While NASA has established an office at APL to administer contracts, APL does not receive funding for the operation of this office.

In conclusion, less than 0.8 percent of federal funding received by Johns Hopkins University comes through congressionally directed or agency directed methods. Again, it should be noted

that these funds require proposals, work plans, and rigorous oversight. In addition, it has been Johns Hopkins' view, although not a written policy, that federal research funds should be awarded through a competitive, merit-based, and peer reviewed process.

Besides research funding, Johns Hopkins has a significant interest in any policy areas that may impact our nearly 20,000 students and 6,300 faculty members, including charitable giving, immigration, student financial aid, telecommunications, and copyright issues. We maintain a staff of one full-time and two part-time positions that are responsible for contact with the administrative and legislative branches of the federal government. As Vice President for Government, Community and Public Affairs, a portion of my time is also allocated to contact with the federal government. Our staff is registered under the Congressional Lobby Disclosure Act and report bi-annually contacts with members of Congress or the Administration. Beyond our internal staff, we have hired consultants to assist in our advocacy efforts.

I hope that this information is useful and addresses your areas of concern. If you have further questions please feel free to call Maggie McIntosh, Associate for Federal Relations, at 443-287-9916. Thank you for your interest and we hope that you will continue to support the partnership between the federal government and our nation's universities.

Sincerely,



Linda Robertson